

Public-Private Partnership to Design, Build, and Operate National Pipeline Mapping System

The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) has selected Michael Baker Jr., Inc. to work with state agencies and the pipeline industry in developing and operating a national geographic information system (GIS) database of pipelines conveying hazardous materials. The project known as the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) will meet the needs of the OPS by providing a full-featured GIS containing the location and selected attributes of natural gas transmission lines and hazardous liquid trunklines in the United States.

The NPMS database will be used by the OPS for emergency response, regulatory and planning activities, and will serve a wide variety of OPS constituents including the pipeline industry, congress, other federal and state agencies, and the general public.



Baker will produce and manage pipeline data for the entire United States on behalf of the U.S. DOT. States shown in blue and the pipeline industry are cooperating in the project.

Standards for the project were developed by a team of government and pipeline industry professionals sponsored by the OPS. Baker will design and manage the NPMS database.

In order to create a cost-effective NPMS for the government while minimizing the regulatory burden on pipeline operators, Baker will work cooperatively with state agencies and the pipeline industry. As the National Repository, Baker will process and manage NPMS data in conjunction with state repositories in California, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

Source data will be contributed voluntarily by pipeline operators to either a state repository or to the National Repository. Pipeline operators may contribute either digital or paper mapping to a repository for processing. Baker and the other repositories will digitize all paper submittals and return the digital data to pipeline operators. The OPS will help the pipeline industry convert paper submittals to digital mapping.

NPMS data will have a target accuracy of ± 500 feet and will be distributed in a variety of digital formats. Eventually, NPMS data will cover the entire United States and offshore areas under OPS jurisdiction.

Baker and the associated state agencies will begin collecting data in April 1999 with the intention of completing the database by the end of the year 2000. NPMS data will be made available to the public under rules to be established by the OPS.

For more information, contact

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